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AF

PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08442.0002-04000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
**Joseph C. CAUTHEN** ) Group Art Unit: 3738  
)  
Application No.: **10/085,040** ) Examiner: David J. Isabella  
)  
Filed: **March 1, 2002** ) Confirmation No.: 8078  
)  
For: **INTERVERTEBRAL DISC** )  
**ANNULUS STENT** )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**REPLY TO FINAL REJECTION AND  
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

In reply to the Final Office Action mailed July 6, 2006, Applicant proposes that this application be amended as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** follow the amendment sections of this paper.

**Attachments** to this paper include: i) copy of U.S. Provisional Application 60/160,710; and ii) copy of U.S. Provisional Application 60/204,118.